



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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Contact: Manny Van Pelt
(202) 616-9659

News Release

ICE ARRESTS JAKARTA RIOT ARSONIST *Admitted he doused gasoline for May 1998 market fire that killed 200*

PHILADELPHIA—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested Indonesia citizen Herry Marice here Tuesday for violations of United States immigration laws after he admitted to a Homeland Security official that he failed to disclose on a visa application his role in a May 1998 fire that killed more than 200 people in Jakarta.

Marice, who had also stayed in the United States beyond the limits of the visa granted to him earlier, admitted he had poured gasoline throughout a Hero Supermarket store during rioting that started May 14, 1998 to overthrow Indonesia's Suharto government.

The fire, Marice said during an immigration benefits interview in Newark, New Jersey, was lit by other rioters.

The blaze consumed the store and a connected shopping mall. In addition to the 200 killed in the store fire, it was reported in the news that at least 2,000 others were killed over several days of rioting throughout the city.

"It's a violation of law to hide past arrests, charges or convictions when applying for a benefit," said Special Agent-in-Charge Bill Reid of ICE's office here. "This is a very serious matter. By his own admission he was instrumental in the fire."

Marice will be detained without bond by ICE until his court appearance is scheduled.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.